

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2006, in the above-identified application. Applicants enclose herewith a Petition requesting a two-month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from December 14, 2006, to and including February 14, 2007.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 52 and 56 to change the recitation "a plurality of solder balls disposed on said top faces of said plurality of metal bumps" to --a plurality of solder balls disposed in contact with said top faces of said plurality of metal bumps--. Support for the above-noted amendment of claims 52 and 56 is supported by the originally filed specification and adds no new matter. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to paragraph 8 of the Office Action, in which the Examiner provided comments on the interpretation of the word "on" and the recitation "in contact with."

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's willingness to conduct a telephone interview for the above-identified application on January 25, 2007. During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that independent claims 52 and 56 would be unanticipated by U.S. Patent 6,050,832 to Lee et al. if the claims were amended to change the recitation "on" to "in contact with."

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 56 as having an informality. Specifically, at line 26 thereof, the Examiner noted that the terminology "said dielectric element" should read --said rigid dielectric element--. Applicants have amended claim 56 to make this change recommended by the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,050,832 to Lee et al. Referring to FIG. 1 thereof, Lee discloses an assembly including an interposer 18 having a top surface 20 and a bottom surface 22. The assembly includes bottom contact layers 26 underlying the bottom surface 22 of the interposer 18 and top contact layers 30 overlying the top surface 20 of the interposer 18. The assembly includes conductive via connections 28 that extend through the interposer 18 and electrically interconnect the bottom contact layers 26 with the top contact layers 30. The solder balls 16 are not disposed in contact with the top faces of the via connections 28. Rather, the solder balls 16 are disposed on and in contact with the top contact layers 30 rather than the top faces of the via connections 28. Thus, independent claim 52 is unanticipated by Lee because the cited reference does not disclose a wiring circuit panel including "a plurality of solder balls disposed in contact with said top faces of said plurality of metal bumps." Claims 53-54 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 52, which is unanticipated for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner rejected claims 55-59 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (APA). In response, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 55 is patentable over Lee and the APA because claim 55 depends from claim 52, which is patentable for the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 56 is unobvious over Lee and APA for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 52. Claims 57-59 are unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 52, which is patentable for the reasons set forth above.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: January 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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